

An Open Letter to Texas Legislative Leaders

As Governor Greg Abbott said in his recent inaugural address, “We will put our students on a pathway to having all third-graders reading on grade level by the time they finish the third grade.” Public school finance reform is the single most important priority to achieve in the upcoming legislative session. Our funding per student has not kept pace with the evolving needs of our student population, which reflect more students with higher needs than a decade ago. This is particularly evident in our national literacy rankings, with Texas ranking 46th in early reading achievement according to the National Assessment of Academic Progress. With Texas currently ranking 43rd in the U.S. in public education funding per student, we cannot underfund our needs and expect to create a workforce that ensures the statewide prosperity to which we’ve grown accustomed.

As such, we strongly urge the Governor, Lt. Governor and Speaker, along with all members of the Texas Legislature, to support the recent recommendations of the Texas Commission on Public School Finance, which were unanimously agreed upon by a bipartisan group of legislators, community members, and school district personnel. In particular, we urge them to adopt the \$780 million recommended per year for the third grade reading allotment as well as the \$400 million to reward districts which attain third grade reading targets, particularly for low-income students.

Unless we achieve these goals, the quality of our workforce will be insufficient to support the robust growth we’ve come to expect. The people of Texas deserve better! Thank you in advance for your strong leadership.



Roger Staubach
Chairman & CEO,
15 Partners



Joe DePinto
President & CEO,
7-Eleven, Inc.



Jere W. Thompson, Jr.
CEO,
Ambit Energy



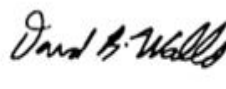
Doug Parker
Chairman & CEO,
American Airlines



Cynthia Comparin
CEO,
Animato



Randall Stephenson,
Chairman & CEO,
AT&T, Inc.



David B. Walls
President & CEO,
Austin Industries




Norm Bagwell
CEO,
Bank of Texas



Jody Grant
Chairman & Partner,
BankCap Partners
Chairman Emeritus,
Texas Capital Bancshares, Inc.



Key Coker
Dallas CEO,
BBVA Compass



Matt Rose
Executive Chairman,
BNSF



Wyman Roberts
CEO & President,
Brinker International
President,
Chili's Grill & Bar



David Michel
President & CEO,
Catapult Health



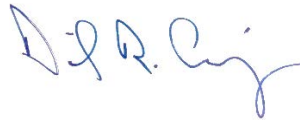
Mark Rohr
Chairman & CEO,
Celanese



Daniel J. Healy
CEO,
Civitas Capital Group



Ralph W. Babb, Jr.
Chairman & CEO,
Comerica Bank



David Corrigan
CEO,
Corrigan Investments Inc.



Harlan Crow
Chairman,
Crow Holdings



Fred Perpall
Chairman,
Dallas Citizens Council



David Seaton
Chairman & CEO,
Fluor Corp.



John Goff
Chairman,
Goff Capital, Inc. & Crescent Real
Estate



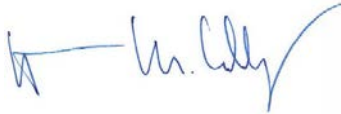
Linda W. Hart,
Vice-Chairman, President & CEO,
Hart Group, Inc.



Milledge A. Hart III
Chairman,
Hart Group, Inc.



Ray L. Hunt
Executive Chairman,
Hunt Consolidated, Inc.



Bill Addy
Executive Chairman,
ISN



Elaine Agather
Chairman,
JPMorgan Chase, Dallas



Steve Van Amburgh
CEO,
KDC Real Estate Development &
Investments



Bobby B. Lyle
Founder & Chairman,
Lyco Holdings Inc.



David Holl
Chairman & CEO,
Mary Kay Inc.



Albert C. Black, Jr.
Chairman,
On-Target Supplies & Logistics, Ltd.



Preston McAfee
Chairman,
Rogers-O'Brien Construction



Carl Sewell
Chairman,
Sewell Automotive Companies



Gary C. Kelly
Chairman of the Board & CEO,
Southwest Airlines



Harold MacDowell
CEO,
TDIndustries



Ronald A. Rittenmeyer
Executive Chairman & CEO,
Tenet Healthcare Corporation



Peter Beck
Executive Chairman,
The Beck Group



Edward P. Bass
Chairman & CEO,
The Fine Line Group



Ross Perot, Jr.
Chairman,
The Perot Companies & Hillwood



Schuyler Marshall
Chairman of the Board,
The Rosewood Corporation



Timothy R. Wallace
Chairman, CEO & President,
Trinity Industries, Inc.



Bob Rowling
CEO,
TRT Holdings



Paul Andrews
CEO,
TTI, Inc.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Becker', with a stylized, cursive script.

Steve Becker
CEO,
Tuesday Morning

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John Scovell', with a stylized, cursive script.

John Scovell
Chairman,
Woodbine Development Corp.